GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:220
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2017
School Bags Pick-up Facility
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that on experimental basis an upper primary school in Kerala has launched pick-up facility for school bags, through deployment of special vans to pick up bags of students who cannot afford bus travel because of financial constraints and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether this move is seen as a measure to promote walking among students and reducing dependence on vehicles and if so, the details thereof; and
(c) whether the Government would encourage introduction of this facility at all primary schools where children carry heavy bags on the lines of Dabbawalas in Mumbai carrying lunchboxes and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The State of Kerala has informed that Government Mappila Upper Primary School, Kattampally in Kannur district of Kerala has introduced from 2nd March, 2017 a programme named as Bag Vandi, to minimise the burden of students carrying school bag having more than 8 Kg. This is a unique and replicable initiative taken by the school in association with its Head Master, Staff and Parent Teachers Association, by which an arrangement has been made to pick the school bag of pupil from their home to school. By this pupil can walk to school by themselves without any burden of carrying of school bags. A total of 200 students out of 547 students of the school are availing this facility under this programme. No fees/charges have been collected from the students.
(c) There is no such proposal. However, the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 brought out by the National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) addresses the issue related to curriculum load keeping in view of the Yash Pal Committee Report, 1993 on `Learning Without Burden'. Besides taking measures to address the concern of weight of school bag of children as per the Yash Pal Committee Report, the NCERT has taken following recent initiatives which contribute to the reduction of load of heavy bags and also information load:
i. All the textbooks and many other teaching-leaning materials developed by the NCERT are available online on its website www.ncert.nic.in
ii. Further for extending access of students, teachers and other stakeholders to variety of open ICT resources (teaching-learning) and henceforth improving quality of school education at all levels, the NCERT has introduced National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER).
iii. E-pathshala has been launched by the NCERT, which is another platform for showcasing and dissemination of all digital and digitisable resources. The eresources for students include e-books from classes I to XII, e-contents, i.e. audio, video, interactive objects, text images, maps, question banks, e-courses in various subjects, scholarships, events, melas, competitions etc. Similarly the e-resources for teacher and teacher educators shall include source books, teacher handbooks, lab manuals, supplementary reading materials, e-courses/online courses, e-groups, blogs, etc.
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